

Message Text

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46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 FEA-02 INT-08 NEA-11

AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 NSC-10 SS-20 STR-08 CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /194 W
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R 231301Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9018

INFO AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCOMSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL OPORTO

UNCLAS LISBON 0297

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, PO

SUBJ: PETROLEUM: OPORTO REFINERY SUCCESSFULLY PROCESSES

CABINDA (ANGOLA) CRUDE

REF: LISBON 4040 OF NOV. 3, 1973

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SACOR REFINERY AT OPORTO RECENTLY REPORTED THE SUCCESSFUL REFINING OF HIGH-WAX CABINDA CRUDE, CONTRARY TO WIDELY HELD BELIEF THAT THE REFINERY WAS NOT EQUIPPED TO EFFICIENTLY REFINE THIS PARTICULAR CRUDE. REFINERY OFFICIALS ALSO STATED THAT IRAN AND IRAQ HAVE CONTINUED TO SUPPLY PETROLEUM TO PORTUGAL IN THE FACE OF A TOTAL ARAB BOYCOTT AGAINST THE GOP. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING A ROUTINE VISIT TO THE SACOR REFINERY IN OPORTO ON JANUARY 16, AMCONSUL OPORTO AND COML. ATTACHE WERE TOLD BY REFINERY OFFICIALS THAT SINCE JANUARY 1, 1974
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THE SACOR REFINERY HAS RUN TWO BATCHES OF CABINDA (ANGOLA) CRUDE WITH NO LOSS IN EFFICIENCY OR DESTRUCTION OF

REFINED PRODUCTS. THE SACOR OFFICIALS INSISTED THAT BOTH BATCHES WERE 100 PERCENT HIGH-WAX CABINDA CRUDE. THE INABILITY OF THE SACOR REFINERY IN OPORTO TO REFIN CABINDA CRUDE DUE TO ITS HIGH-WAX CONTENT HAD BEEN WIDELY DISCUSSED AND BELIEVED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND BUSINESS CIRCLES, AND WAS A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GOP. SACOR HAD BEEN PREPARING TO INSTALL SPECIAL HEATING ELEMENTS TO INSURE THAT THE HIGH-WAX CABINDA CRUDE WOULD NOT "FREEZE" IN PUMPING IT THROUGH REFINERY. HOWEVER, THESE MODIFICATIONS HAVE NOT YET BECOME OPERATIONAL AND THUS FAR HAVE NOT PROVED NECESSARY. THE REFINERY OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IN COMPARISON TO ARAB CRUDE THE CABINDA CRUDE YIELDS A SMALLER PRODUCTION OF LIGHT PRODUCTS SUCH AS GASOLINE AND RELATIVELY MORE OF THE HEAVY PRODUCTS SUCH AS FUEL OIL. HOWEVER, THEY EXPRESS OPTIMISM THAT THE LOW SULFUR FUEL OIL FROM CABINDA CRUDE COULD BE EASILY SOLD OR BARTERED ON THE WORLD MARKET DUE TO ITS LOW POLLUTION QUOTIENT.

3. REGARDING SUPPLIES OF MIDDLE EAST CRUDE, THE SACOR REFINERY OFFICIALS STATED THAT BOTH IRAN AND IRAQ CONTINUE TO SELL CRUDE OIL TO PORTUGAL. THE SACOR REPRESENTATIVES REFUSED TO SPECULATE ON WHICH AREAS WOULD BE PORTUGAL'S MAJOR SUPPLIERS IN 1974, BUT THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY DELIGHTED WITH THEIR SUCCESS IN REFINING CABINDA CRUDE.
SCOTT

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